

Remarks

The specification is amended to delete the citation to CB 0130452.6. The citation is incorrect and a search for the reference finds nothing. The reference presumably shows an anti-fouling coating for a buoyant material. Such detail, however, is unnecessary for describing the inventive clamp, and the specification, by itself, is fully enabling. A replacement abstract, removing legal terminology present in the originally filed abstract is submitted herewith.

The claims are amended for replacing the term "radially resilient member" with "radially acting spring". Support for this change is in the specification at, for example, paragraph 37 of the published version.

In the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 9, the Examiner equates the gasket G of Daghe with the "radially resilient member" originally specified in the claims. While the gasket G of Daghe is admittedly elastomeric, it can in no sense be referred to as a spring, as now claimed. Also, to judge from the appearance and description of the gasket G, it would not have the stiffness required to accommodate changes in the dimension of the pipe while maintaining a clamping force.

Concerning the suggested combination of GB649 with Daghe, it is submitted that there is no evidence of record showing any incentive to incorporate the seal of Daghe into the clamp of GB 649. The Examiner states that the reason to do this would be to protect the body from the band, the body being made of glass reinforced plastic. This seems to be based upon the assumption that the seal

would have been placed between the body and the band. But that would have been an entirely different construction from that shown in Daghe wherein the seal is placed in the only reasonable place for a seal, i.e. on the interior surface of the clamp. There is no reason to think, and certainly no evidence in support of the notion, that the body requires protection from the band, and no combination of the teachings of the two documents would have suggested this construction.

Allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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